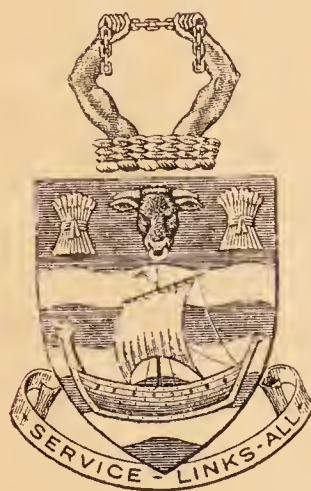


County of Lincoln - Parts of Lindsey.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1940.

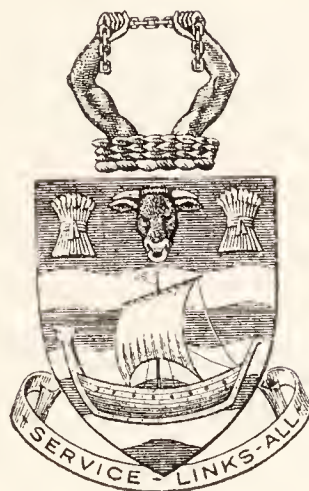
W. S. H. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
County Medical Officer of Health.



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W. S. H. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
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In view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Department of local authorities the Ministry of Health has requested that the report of the Medical Officer of Health be restricted to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year. The report is to be regarded as an interim one, and statistics and other matter omitted are to be preserved for publication in a more comprehensive report after the war.

Although much of the time of the staff of the Health Department continues to be given to Civil Defence and other war time work, every effort has been made to maintain the scope of the Council's normal health services. In a number of directions, however, some curtailment of the work has been unavoidable.

Members of the staff on war service have been replaced by temporary officers. Three temporary medical and two dental officers are at present employed. The dental staff is still one officer short of the peace time establishment.

Nine out of a male clerical staff of 14 are serving with the forces, their places having been filled by the appointment of temporary women clerks.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of live births registered during the year was 4,386, giving a rate of 16·05 per 1,000 of the civilian population. The rate is the highest recorded for the County since 1930, and is 1·45 per 1,000 of the population higher than that for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE.

There were 3,517 deaths in the County in 1940, the death rate being 12·86 as compared with 12·01 for the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 231. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was therefore 52 or 5 per 1,000 births higher than the rate recorded in 1939. The causes of deaths of infants are given in the table at the end of this report.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy numbered 9. Three were due to sepsis and 6 to various other causes.

The Maternal Mortality rate for the year was therefore 2·05 per 1,000 births. This is the lowest rate yet recorded for the County and is 1·6 below the average rate for the previous 10 years.

Deaths from Heart Disease	..	..	..	843
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	3·08
Deaths from Cancer	..	..	..	452
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	1·65
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms)			..	167
Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	0·61

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The returns of the Sanitary Inspectors for this year show clearly the effect of the war on sanitary progress in the County, for although only three district inspectors have joined the services, many members of the public health staffs including several pupils have been called up.

A variety of Civil Defence duties have been undertaken, and as a result only urgent and routine work is carried out. The difficulty of obtaining materials has prevented the prompt execution of repairs.

With a few minor exceptions, the co-operation between the Services and the Civil Authorities has been excellent, the removal of refuse, salvage, supervision of billets and water supplies being examples.

HOUSING.

As was to be expected the building of new houses practically ceased; the demand for accommodation for evacuees, coupled with the difficulty of carrying out improvements or repairs, has, for the time being, lowered the standard of housing and stopped clearance areas and demolition. The main object now is to ensure that houses are weatherproof, reasonably capable of being kept clean, and such things as leaking gutters, downspouts, etc., are repaired or renewed.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year some extensions to existing schemes have been made, and one new scheme completed; in the past consideration of schemes for water supply has been one solely of public health, now it is a most important fire-fighting factor.

GLANFORD BRIGG R.D.C.

The extension of the existing scheme to five additional parishes in the western area was completed, another bore sunk by the North Lindsey Water Board is now being fully utilised.

GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

The laying of mains is still in progress, and completion is expected within a few months. A supply is now available in a limited area.

HORNCastle RURAL DISTRICT.

A bulk supply has been obtained from the Boston Corporation and piped to three large villages, this involved the laying of about seven miles of main. The remainder of the district with the exception of the Wragby area has a most unreliable supply.

LOUTH RURAL DISTRICT.

There has been no extension of the existing schemes, but the question of chlorination is under consideration. The demand on the Binbrook scheme is such that larger pumps will shortly be necessary.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There has been no scheme projected during the last year, and in those cases where schemes had been prepared, postponement until after the war has been the decision. Unexpected demands have been made on some works as a result of an influx of population, the consequent overloading has slightly reduced the effluent standard.

In one district the advent of a piped water supply has turned some of the main roadside ditches into parish sewers, thus necessitating fairly extensive piping. As a temporary measure, septic tanks have been constructed at the end of the piping, and a submerged deoderant placed at the outlet; the results have been very satisfactory. This suggests an interim measure between the parish drain discharging into an open ditch and a proper scheme of sewers and sewage disposal.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In January, central control of slaughtering was introduced, and as a result the majority of the small private slaughterhouses are no longer in regular use, slaughtering taking place

at a few central slaughterhouses. Although some difficulty has arisen in distribution, the outstanding feature is that, at last, inspection of all carcasses is now possible if inspectors can afford the necessary time.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The difficulty of obtaining or even retaining sufficient farm labour coupled with black-out conditions and a decrease of supervisory visits owing to other urgent duties has, in many cases, resulted in a lowering of the standard of cleanliness in the herds.

Of 458 samples from licenced herds, 104 or 23% were unsatisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been no undue prevalence in the County of any of the notifiable infectious diseases. Measles and whooping cough are now notifiable diseases, and this accounts for the increase in the total number of notifications received.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria is the responsibility of the District Councils. Schemes are now in operation throughout the County.

To meet a possible increased demand for bed accommodation in isolation hospitals the small pox hospital at Osgodby has been made available for other infectious diseases. Even with this addition the accommodation in the County would be taxed to its utmost in dealing with any serious epidemic, especially under the abnormal conditions that now exist. No doubt in a limited outbreak some accommodation could be found in hospitals of neighbouring authorities, but in a widespread epidemic the likelihood of such accommodation being obtained becomes more remote.

Two hundred and sixteen patients were admitted to the Council's isolation hospital at Brumby during the year. There were 95 patients who could not be accommodated at this institution, and for these, beds were obtained at institutions belonging to other Authorities.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified during the year numbered 436, of which 230 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 106 from other forms of the disease.

The total number of cases on the dispensary registers at the end of the year was pulmonary 903, and non-pulmonary 392.

Patients receiving institutional treatment during the year numbered 368, 185 in institutions maintained by the County Council and 183 in institutions belonging to other Authorities.

It was found necessary to close the tuberculosis hospital at Louth, the patients being sent to the Branston Hall Sanatorium and the Brumby Hospital.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

New cases attending the V.D. Clinics during the year numbered 145, 51 of syphilis and 94 of gonorrhœa. No change has been made in facilities for the treatment of this disease in the County. Consideration is however being given to the question of establishing facilities to serve the Skegness and surrounding districts. At present patients from these areas are deterred from seeking treatment at a clinic owing to the long distances they are required to travel.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Full details of the provisions made by the County Council under this heading have been given in previous reports. These provisions have been fully maintained and in some respects extended during the year. The facilities provided for the normal residents in the County are also available for evacuees. Billeting authorities notify the arrival of children under 5 years of age, and arrangements are made for their supervision by the County Health Visitors.

An emergency Maternity Home of 46 beds has been provided at Gate Burton Hall for evacuated expectant mothers.

Gynæcological Clinics have been opened at the County Infirmarys at Louth and Brigg. They are in charge of Mr. McDonald, the Council's consultant obstetrician. Patients are seen at the request of their own doctors and cases requiring institutional treatment are admitted under Mr. McDonald's care to one or other of the above-mentioned hospitals.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, following the coming into operation of the National Milk Scheme, has ceased to provide milk for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age. It was not without misgivings that one saw the abandonment of a scheme which had worked so well for so many years. Certain defects giving rise to criticism in the new scheme have already been remedied and no doubt other improvements will be made.

In the meantime the Council's officers are co-operating with milk officers in promoting the smooth working of the scheme.

The number of midwives practising in the County was 177, as compared with 204 at the end of 1939. The number employed on domiciliary work by the County Council and District Nursing Associations remains the same, viz. : 110. The number engaged in private practice has fallen from 32 to 21. There has also been a reduction in the number employed in institutions. In those maintained by the County Council the number employed at the end of the year was 35, as compared with 50 in 1939.

During the year midwives either alone or under the supervision of a doctor attended 2,945 cases in their own homes and 1,421 in institutions. Compared with last year there has been a fall of 100 in the number of domiciliary cases and an increase of 199 in the number dealt with in institutions.

Patients admitted to the County Council's Maternity Homes during the year, including those admitted to the Emergency Home at Gate Burton, numbered 1,345. The number of patients delivered in the homes was 1,206. There were two maternal deaths.

There have been no changes in the Council's arrangements for the care of children under 5 years of age. Home visits by the Council's nurses numbered 69,880. The number of attendances by children under 5 years of age at Infant Welfare Centres was 64,929.

The Council's Health Visitors have continued to act as Infant Life Protection Visitors.

Unsatisfactory reports in respect of three foster parents led in each case to the children being removed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS, 1940

Districts	Total Births	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Birth Rate
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
URBAN						
Alford	21	11	8	2	—	10·17
Barton-on-Humber	83	40	38	4	1	14·34
Brigg	71	36	33	—	2	16·87
Cleethorpes Borough	371	177	174	7	13	13·92
Gainsborough ..	277	122	144	6	5	16·31
Horncastle	40	16	22	1	1	11·01
Louth Borough ..	174	87	78	5	4	16·63
Mablethorpe ..	50	28	21	1	—	11·77
Market Rasen ..	36	12	17	2	5	16·66
Scunthorpe Borough	908	447	416	23	22	19·87
Skegness	130	69	51	6	4	13·40
Woodhall Spa ..	16	9	6	—	1	9·72
Aggregate Urban Districts	2177	1054	1008	57	58	16·34
RURAL						
Glanford Brigg ..	530	275	237	6	12	16·85
Caistor	195	93	94	3	5	15·94
Gainsborough ..	154	76	73	3	2	15·16
Grimsby	131	73	50	3	5	11·63
Horncastle	168	88	68	7	5	15·13
Isle of Axholme ..	227	120	99	5	3	17·06
Louth	248	129	106	6	7	15·42
Spilsby	350	183	147	7	13	15·42
Welton	206	88	106	5	7	16·88
Aggregate Rural Districts	2209	1125	980	45	59	15·76
Whole County ..	4386	2179	1988	102	117	16·05

STILL-BIRTHS, 1940

Districts	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total	Rate per 1000 total births
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
URBAN						
Alford	1	—	—	1	2	95·24
Barton-on-Humber	2	—	—	—	2	24·09
Brigg	2	—	—	—	2	28·17
Cleethorpes Borough	3	—	1	2	6	16·20
Gainsborough	2	6	—	—	8	28·81
Horncastle	—	—	—	—	—	—
Louth Borough	4	4	1	—	9	51·72
Mablethorpe and Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Market Rasen	—	—	—	1	1	27·78
Scunthorpe Borough	17	22	—	1	40	44·05
Skegness	5	6	—	—	11	84·61
Woodhall Spa	1	—	—	—	1	62·50
Aggregate Urban Districts	37	38	2	5	82	37·65
RURAL						
Glanford Brigg	12	4	—	—	16	30·19
Caistor	6	5	1	—	12	61·54
Gainsborough	3	1	—	—	4	25·97
Grimsby	4	5	—	—	9	68·70
Horncastle	1	2	—	—	3	17·85
Isle of Axholme	2	3	—	1	6	26·43
Louth	4	4	1	—	9	36·29
Spilsby	10	1	—	—	11	31·43
Welton	2	8	—	—	10	48·55
Aggregate Rural Districts	44	33	2	1	80	36·21
Whole County	81	71	4	6	162	36·93

Death Rates Urban and Rural Districts.

District	Crude Death Rate.	Corrected Death Rate
URBAN		
Alford	19.86	13.90
Barton-on-Humber ..	15.20	13.83
Brigg	12.50	12.25
Cleethorpes Borough ..	13.17	13.70
Gainsborough	14.38	13.37
Horncastle	16.24	12.99
Louth Borough ..	17.11	14.54
Mablethorpe and Sutton	17.66	13.42
Market Rasen	17.59	13.54
Scunthorpe Borough ..	9.56	12.90
Skegness	12.89	11.86
Woodhall Spa	21.87	15.52
RURAL		
Glanford Brigg	11.24	11.13
Caistor	12.02	10.22
Gainsborough	14.08	12.11
Grimsby	11.81	11.22
Horncastle	12.34	9.87
Isle of Axholme ..	14.57	12.11
Louth	15.48	12.38
Spilsby	12.73	9.82
Welton	12.69	11.30

Table showing the distribution of Notified Cases of
Infectious Diseases in Urban and Rural Districts.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Total number notified.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Respiratory Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	Small-pox.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica	Poliomyelitis.	Dysentery	Polio-encephalitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
URBAN—																		
Alford	35	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	—
Barton-on-Humber	164	1	—	2	—	1	2	4	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	55	94
Brigg	144	1	4	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	13	—	—	—	—	114	4
Cleethorpes Borough	303	49	10	44	—	2	14	8	—	6	5	13	—	—	—	—	146	6
Gainsborough	345	4	3	6	—	1	23	6	—	4	2	52	—	—	—	—	241	3
Horncastle	191	1	3	7	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	171	1
Louth Borough	353	48	4	12	—	6	6	2	—	14	2	7	—	1	—	—	216	35
Mablethorpe	73	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	66	—
Market Rasen	60	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	54	1
Scunthorpe Borough	1331	34	16	64	—	9	43	22	—	18	8	79	—	—	4	—	1032	2
Skegness	255	4	—	7	—	1	9	2	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	224	—
Woodhall Spa	32	—	1	13	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	—
	3286	144	41	169	—	23	103	46	—	53	20	181	—	1	4	—	2355	146
RURAL—																		
Glanford Brigg	949	33	9	67	2	3	17	15	—	3	3	25	—	—	—	—	758	14
Caistor	248	7	4	15	—	1	8	5	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	185	15
Gainsborough	101	4	—	9	—	9	10	3	—	2	2	9	—	—	—	—	53	—
Grimsby	237	18	—	19	—	1	4	2	—	7	—	7	1	—	—	—	158	20
Horncastle	253	2	6	8	—	—	7	3	—	1	1	12	—	—	—	—	178	35
Isle of Axholme	64	20	—	11	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Louth	159	16	2	7	—	—	8	3	—	7	1	15	—	—	—	—	85	15
Spilsby	712	3	7	35	2	1	15	6	—	13	2	19	—	—	—	—	608	1
Welton	66	4	—	—	—	1	8	4	—	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	39	1
	2789	107	28	171	4	16	78	43	—	37	12	99	1	—	—	—	2092	101
Total for County	6075	251	69	340	4	39	181	89	—	90	32	280	1	1	4	—	4447	247

Causes of Death in Each District in the County at all Ages—1940.

DISTRICT.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-Cough.	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Syphilitic Diseases	Influenza	Measles	Acute Polio Myel. and Polio Enceph.	Acute Inf. Enceph.	Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph. (M) Uterus (F)	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	Cancer of Breast	Cancer of all other Sites	Diabetes	Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions	Heart Disease	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory Diseases	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	Diarrhoea under 2 years	Appendicitis	Other Digestive Diseases	Nephritis.	Puer. and Post-Abort. Sepsis	Other Maternal Causes	Premature Birth	Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Disease	Suicide.	Road Traffic Accidents	Other Violent Causes	All other Causes	No. of Deaths			
URBAN																																								
Alford	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	2	1	1	11	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	11	41			
Barton-on-Humber	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	2	..	5	..	16	18	1	4	3	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	4	15	83			
Brigg	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	2	2	3	..	10	13	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	5	53	
Cleethorpes Borough..	1	..	..	3	17	3	4	7	1	..	2	8	7	7	25	3	38	73	5	27	12	..	2	..	..	4	8	..	1	3	10	6	5	12	57	381	
Gainsborough..	16	1	..	11	..	..	..	4	4	3	24	..	19	63	4	17	13	2	4	2	..	5	8	..	..	5	4	..	..	5	30	244			
Horncastle	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	7	1	3	19	2	3	2	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	5	59			
Louth Borough	1	..	1	1	7	2	..	4	..	..	..	4	5	8	10	2	21	37	2	10	9	5	5	..	1	3	6	..	1	1	1	4	..	3	25	179	
Mablethorpe & Sutton	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3	1	6	1	11	22	3	2	1	..	2	..	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	75			
Market Rasen	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	1	8	2	..	7	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	7	38			
Scunthorpe Borough	7	..	..	1	22	10	5	7	2	..	1	4	5	7	29	4	37	82	12	30	24	8	4	3	2	8	6	1	1	14	19	2	11	24	45	437	
Skegness	2	..	..	..	5	1	1	5	1	..	..	4	3	1	6	2	10	37	3	8	4	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	2	1	3	2	1	6	12	125	
Woodhall Spa	6	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	..	7	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	2	36			
Total	12	..	2	6	74	17	11	47	4	..	4	34	33	32	123	15	181	386	35	118	70	17	20	5	5	31	40	1	6	28	47	14	18	64	221	1721			
RURAL																																								
Glanford Brigg	1	..	..	3	13	1	..	4	1	..	..	4	7	3	25	3	40	85	13	21	17	6	1	5	2	9	10	..	..	8	2	4	5	13	44	350	
Caistor	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	5	6	..	14	2	15	31	3	4	7	1	2	..	1	7	1	1	..	6	3	..	1	4	26	147			
Gainsborough..	10	1	..	10	1	..	..	1	3	1	5	4	10	38	6	9	7	3	..	1	1	4	4	..	..	1	2	..	..	4	17	143			
Grimsby	3	..	..	..	3	1	1	6	..	..	..	4	9	1	9	2	12	31	3	3	11	1	1	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	1	2	8	14	133	
Horncastle	4	2	1	4	1	..	..	3	3	3	10	3	11	34	7	7	4	3	2	..	2	2	2	..	..	2	2	3	5	2	15	137			
Isle of Axholme	1	..	..	1	8	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	17	1	25	55	2	22	8	2	2	3	1	7	8	..	..	..	3	..	2	7	11	194	
Louth	3	..	1	..	6	1	2	3	..	..	2	4	7	7	18	2	19	63	4	19	5	..	2	..	1	7	3	..	..	1	2	1	5	7	54	249	
Spilsby	1	..	..	..	8	5	1	8	..	..	..	5	7	3	25	1	38	78	6	12	10	2	2	2	3	4	5	..	..	4	7	..	7	9	35	288	
Welton	2	..	..	..	7	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	3	2	12	..	17	42	3	12	7	2	1	1	..	6	4	..	..	3	1	..	3	3	19	155	
Total	11	..	1	4	62	14	6	43	3	..	3	27	47	21	135	18	187	457	47	109	76	20	13	12	12	47	39	2	..	26	23	9	30	57	235	1796			
Administrative County..	23	..	3	10	136	31	17	90	7	..	7	61	80	53	258	33	368	843	82	227	146	37	33	17	17	78	79	3	6	54	70	23	48	121	456	3517			

**Causes of all Deaths in the County at different ages
1940.**

Causes of Death	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	4	6	5	3	1	23
3. Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
5. Diphtheria	1	7	1	..	..	1	10
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1	2	95	29	8	136
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	5	2	15	7	1	31
8. Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	4	8	5	17
9. Influenza	3	2	2	10	28	45	90
10. Measles	3	3	1	..	..	..	7
11. Ac. Polio-Myel. and Polio-Enceph. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Ac. Inf. Enceph. .. .. .	..	..	..	3	1	3	7
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. Uterv. .. .. .	..	..	..	5	31	25	61
14. Cancer of Stomach, Duodenum .. .. .	..	..	..	2	21	57	80
15. Cancer of Breast .. .. .	..	..	..	10	23	20	53
16. Cancer of all other Sites .. .. .	..	..	..	17	82	159	258
17. Diabetes .. .. .	..	1	3	2	10	17	33
18. Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions .. .. .	..	..	..	6	68	294	368
19. Heart Disease .. .. .	..	1	..	25	166	651	843
20. Other Dis. of Circ. System .. .. .	..	..	..	1	13	68	82
21. Bronchitis	13	3	1	7	42	161	227
22. Pneumonia	39	15	3	10	32	47	146
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	..	5	9	19	37
24. Ulcer of Stomach, Duodenum .. .. .	..	..	..	2	14	17	33
25. Diarrhœa, under 2 years	16	1	..	..	..	..	17
26. Appendicitis	1	3	1	5	6	1	17
27. Other Digestive Diseases	4	3	2	8	28	33	78
28. Nephritis .. .. .	..	1	5	5	26	42	79
29. Puerperal & Post-Abort. Sepsis .. .. .	..	..	..	3	..	..	3
30. Other Maternal Causes .. .. .	..	..	..	6	..	..	6
31. Premature Birth	54	..	..	..	..	..	54
32. Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Disease	61	4	3	1	1	..	70
33. Suicide .. .. .	..	..	..	7	8	8	23
34. Road Traffic Accidents .. .. .	..	2	6	17	12	11	48
35. Other Violent Causes	6	6	5	34	26	44	121
36. All other Causes.. .. .	21	5	10	46	64	310	456
Total	231	71	53	356	758	2048	3517

